GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:753
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Crime against Foreign Tourists
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the increasing cases of crime against tourists at tourist centres in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, collects the data on crime against foreign tourists since 2014. They have reported a total number of 384 and 271 cases of crimes against foreign tourists during 2014 and 2015 respectively showing a decrease of 29.4% during 2015 over 2014. NCRB has started collecting data on crimes against foreign tourists since 2014 only using MHA approved revised proformae of "Crime in India" hence no patterns on such crimes can be drawn.

Crime categorised as registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under crime against foreign tourists during 2014 is at Annexure.

The measures taken by Ministry of Tourism to ensure the safety and security of tourists including foreign tourists are as given below:

i) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline in 12 Languages including 10 international languages and in Hindi & English on 8.2.2016. This service is available on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 and operational 24X7 365 days in a year offering a "multi-lingual helpdesk" in the designated languages to provide support service in terms of providing information relating to Travel & Tourism in India to the domestic and International tourists and to assist the callers with advice on action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India and if need be alert the concerned authorities.
ii) Adoption of code of conduct by the Indian travel and tourism industry for Safe and Honourable Tourism, which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.

iii) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity, if any.

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